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Mycological Bulletin No. 15

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—To Superintendent M. E. Hard of Chillicothe, and to Dr. H. S. Pepoon of Chicago, we extend thanks for the photos used in making the cuts for this Number. All of the species are common ones and may perhaps be recognized when found. The figure of the Jack-my-Lantern (Fig. 55) will be supplemented in a future No. by a photo of a single specimen natural size—and this very common species then could not be mistaken. This is one that should be learned at once, for attractive as it is, unfortunately it is not an edible species.

AM-A-NI'-TA AGAIN.—The figures given in Bulletin No. 14 are to be most carefully studied. Especial attention was called to the presence of a *vol'-va* (usually conspicuous) and the *an'-nu-lus*—these terms being also there explained. The *vol'-va* forms a *universal veil* in the young stage, that is, a layer of thin tissue that entirely envelopes the young plant; it is more or less *free* from the cap. When the veil is attached and inseparable, not easily distinguishable, the botanists say it is “concrete” with the pileus.

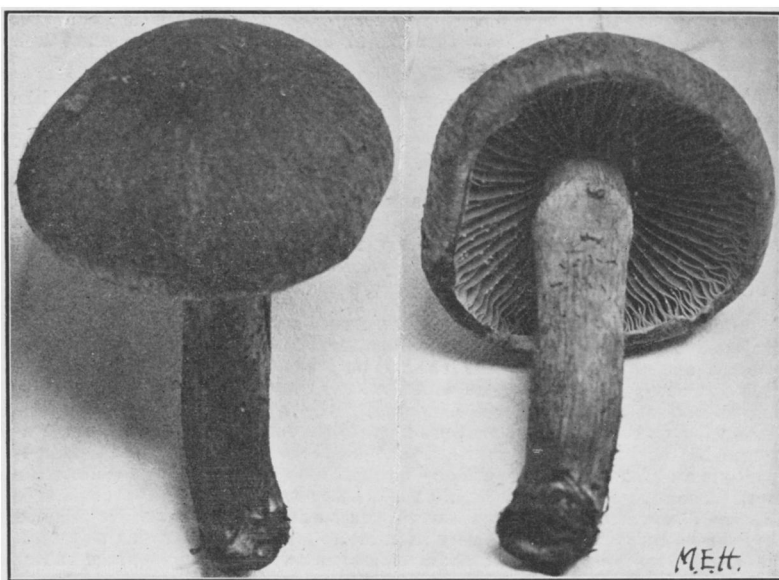


Fig. 54 HY-PHO-LO'-MA LAC-RY-MA-BUN'-DUM. Cap and stem tawny, light yellowish, or shades of amber; the surface with soft and floccose scales. The flesh is tinged yellowish or brownish, soft and easily broken. Height 2 or 3 inches, cap one or two inches wide. The spores are purple-brown in the HY-PHO-LO-MAS, the gills attached to the stem, rarely or never with a ring, or annulus. Atkinson says the edible qualities of HY-PHO-LO'-MA LAC-RY MA-BUN'-DUM have not been tested. From a photo by Supt. M. E. Hard, Chillicothe, Ohio.

HOW TO HANDLE THESE PLANTS.—The Mushrooms must be secured before too old and the presence or absence of the vol'-va determined; to this end, dig them up carefully with a trowel or strong knife—in fact all the species should be collected in this particular way for close inspection or real study. Have a basket of generous size to carry them home. Tissue paper surrounding the moist or viscid kinds will protect them if handled carefully—but one can only learn by experience how to treat delicate and perishable Mushrooms.

AM-A-NI'-TA A LARGE GENUS.—In the Third Volume of the Journal of Mycology (pages 25-33) Professor Morgan describes 28 species which is the approximate number of kinds in our country. Peck enumerates 14 New York species in his 33rd State Report. Lloyd has published a Compilation of the Volvae of the United States in which 38 species are enumerated. Illustrations—colored and half-tones—have been published of many of the kinds; see Atkinson's Mushrooms, Mcllvaine's One Thousand American Fungi, Peck's illustrated Reports, &c.

MOST SPECIES OF AM-A-NI'-TA DEADLY POISONOUS.—Reasonable care based on proper examination may banish any fear entertained relative to Mushrooms that resemble the AM-A-NI'-TAS. The latter are poisonous as is well known—but that should not interfere with an intelligent interest in them and all other fungi too. There are hundreds of palatable and delicious Mushrooms and it is rare that they resemble any species of AM-A-NI'-TA or could be mistaken for one of these poisonous kinds. It is remarkable that the AM-A-NI'-TA called Caesar's Mushroom (the botanical name being *Am-a-ni'-ta cae-sa'-re-a*) is not poisonous but edible; it is a large and beautiful Toadstool, orange or yellow throughout but the vol'-va is white and prominent.

A-MAN-I-TOP'-SIS.—The Mushrooms so named by the botanists are like AM-A-NI'-TA (that is what the word means) except they never have a ring, or an'-nu-lus. They bear no bad reputation amongst fungus-eaters, and at least a dozen species occur in our country.

LEP-I-O'-TA.—This genus has many common representatives, and though near relatives of AM-A-NI'-TA they are not poisonous—or at any rate only a few are to be let alone. In the LEP-I-O'-TAS there is no sac-like vol'-va; but the an'-nu-lus, or ring on the stem, is present. Figure 56 is a representative of this genus.

COMPARISON OF AM-A-NI'-TA, A-MAN-I-TOP'-SIS, AND LEP-I-O'-TA.—These majestic Toadstools will likely be encountered in great numbers during the season, and too close attention can not be given them. With but one or a very few exceptions the species of AM-A-NI'-TA are *deadly poisonous*—therefore do not eat Mushrooms indiscriminately; the tasting and testing should be done with great caution when it pertains to the forms here under consideration. Neither must it be assumed that all the representatives of A-MAN-I-TOP'-SIS and LEP-I-O'-TA are edible—most of them are but some certainly are not. The fine large Mushroom called LEP-I-O'-TA MOR-GAN'-I (Professor Morgan discovered this species several years ago and Professor Peck named it) is eaten by some, but it is very inimical to most persons so far as tested. In all the representatives of these three genera the stem is *fleshy* rather than *cartilaginous*, and the gills are usually free, *i. e.* not attached to the stem. The cap is *easily separable from the stem*. The striking differences pertain to vol'-va and ring, or an'-nu-lus, thus:

VOLVA and RING present.....	Am-a-ni'-ta
VOLVA present, RING wanting.....	A-man-i-top'-sis
VOLVA wanting, RING present.....	Lep-i-o'-ta

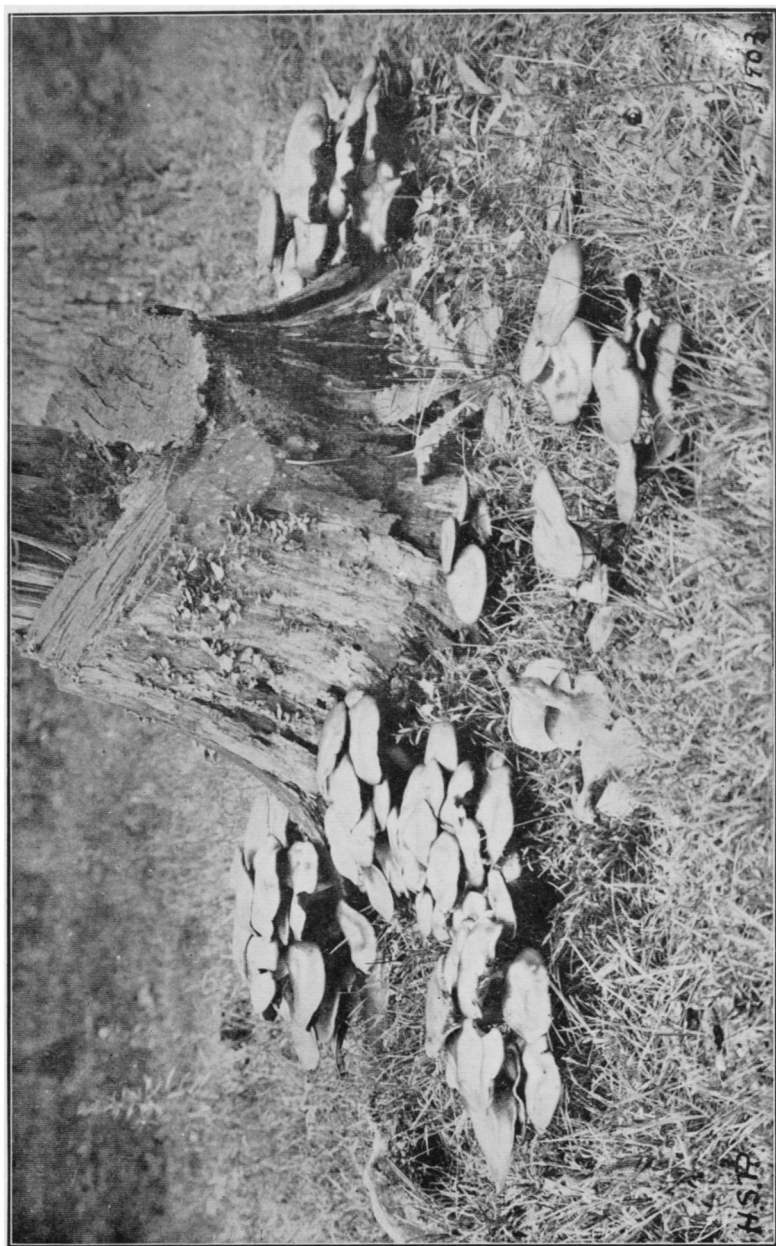


FIG. 55. CLITOC'Y-RE IL-LU'DENS. JACK-MY-LANTERN. NOT EDIBLE. Very large, orange yellow; gills phosphorescent when fresh. Photo by Dr. Pepon, Chicago.

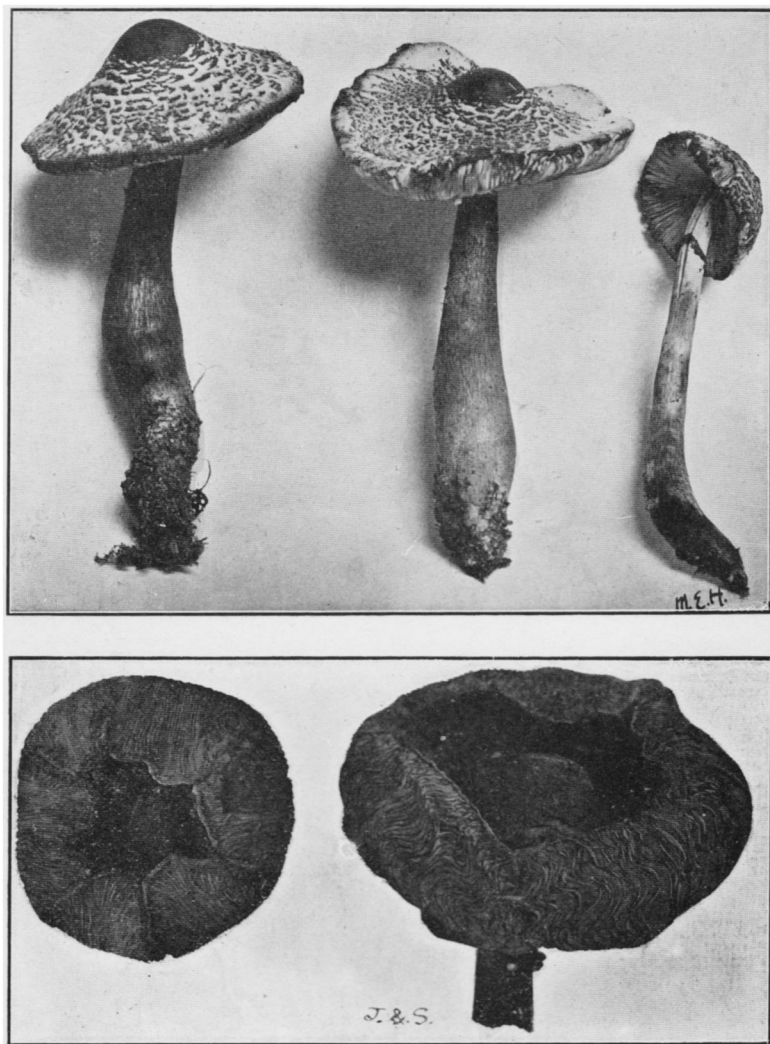


Fig. 56. LEP-I-O'-TA A-MER-I-CA'-NA. AMERICAN LEPIOTA. EDIBLE. Plants 3 to 4½ inches high. The cap is 2½ to 4 inches broad, at first white then reddish or brownish with scales except at center. The white flesh becomes reddish when cut or bruised and the whole plant *turns reddish in drying*. The cap in age becomes sometimes strongly recurved as the two lower specimens show. To be looked for in July and later. The upper figures from photo by Supt. M. E. Hard, Chillicothe; the lower made from specimens collected on a pile of old saw-dust, Columbus.

List of Members of the Mycological Club, 1904, to be resumed in next No.

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